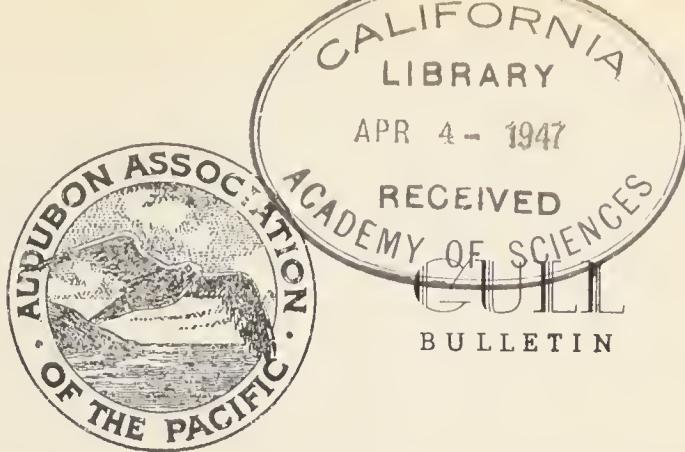


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Number 4

### Leisurely Birding

There are two ways to see birds: one is to pursue them over the countryside and through the woods, and the other is to remain quiet in some promising spot and wait for the birds to appear. The first method may produce a greater number of species for your list but the waiting method will afford longer and more intimate observations, and even interesting examples of behavior which would hardly be noted under the less favorable conditions of a bird walk.

This contrast came to me forcibly this summer when Mrs. Stephens and I occupied a cottage for two weeks, June 8 to 22, 1946, at Twain Harte, Tuolumne County, California. Surrounded by yellow pines and incense cedars interspersed with small black oaks and a thick stand of bracken ferns, our rustic domicile was ideally located. Our neighbors on either side were not too close so that we enjoyed seclusion without loneliness.

A trickling stream, though almost dried up, was a great attraction for the birds and someone had fashioned a feeding tray of bark and fixed it up between two pine trees. This we kept well supplied with bread and raisins. The robins were the aggressors at the feeding tray. They chased away the other birds and none came back until the robins left. When a robin came to feed he wasted no time but came directly and with speed. How differently came the black-headed grosbeak! This more gentle creature would alight quite high above the tray and come down cautiously in four or five jumps carefully looking over the situation at each stop. Both robins and grosbeaks were very fond of the raisins. The evening grosbeaks were very shy. We saw them only twice and they did not come to the tray. The juncos and spotted towhees fared well because if they couldn't make the feeding tray, on account of the robins, they could find plenty of small crumbs which had fallen to the ground.

One poor little junco was working hard all day long feeding a big baby cowbird. There was no sign of her own offspring. No doubt, they had been crowded out of the nest by this strange one and perished.

There was also a male grosbeak feeding a young one. The two young birds,

the cowbird and the grosbeak, were perched on the same branch about a foot apart. The parent grosbeak arrived with food and alighted between the two young birds. But before he fed his own he jabbed something into the open mouth of the cowbird. We wondered if this was merely the result of a sudden impulse and not at all a common occurrence. We saw it just once.

There were other species present: red-shafted flicker; downy and white-headed woodpeckers; western flycatcher; wood pewee and one small gray flycatcher not identified. There were slender-billed and red-breasted nuthatches; creeper; house wren; Cassin and warbling vireos; Audubon warbler, singing; western tanager; Cassin purple finch and chipping sparrow.

One day a pair of white-headed woodpeckers alighted side by side on the trunk of a pine tree within just a few feet of us. They held their bills very close together and uttered a low sort of chatter. This they did for several minutes, then flew away to a higher location.

And so we had become better acquainted with a few birds rather than only slightly acquainted with a great many.

Albert B. Stephens, San Francisco, California. July 15, 1946.

Note.—The editor regrets that this article by the late Mr. Stephens was not published at an earlier date, but feels that it will be of interest to his many friends.

### Condensed Treasurer's Report for 1946

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Balance on hand January 1, 1946 .....	\$ 69.16
Receipts in 1946 (including Birds of Marin Co. \$8.75; Hastings Fund, \$4.50; Livermore Trip, \$11.16) .....	350.89
	_____
Expenditures .....	360.31
Balance in commercial account January 1, 1947 .....	59.74
	_____

#### TOTAL ASSETS

Commercial account .....	\$ 59.74
Savings account .....	459.43
U. S. Treasury Bond .....	370.00
	_____

#### MEMBERSHIP

Membership in foree December 31, 1945 .....	140
Membership in foree December 31, 1946 .....	134

Signed: Ivander Maelver  
Treasurer

January 6, 1947

An Emergency Committee for Relief to European ornithologists has been established so that we in this country can send help to our suffering colleagues. The need is very great, especially for food and clothing. CARE, a non-profit organization, will send 30 pounds of basic rations to individuals in Europe for only \$10.00. If you will contribute to the sending of these CARE food packages, please write to

Mrs. John T. Emlen,  
2621 Van Hise Avenue,  
Madison, Wisconsin.

If you have old clothing which you can send, please write to the following address, giving size of clothing which can be spared. Miss Groner will supply names and addresses of the ornithologists and their families.

Miss Dorothy Groner,  
Room 701 C., Hall of Justice,  
Los Angeles 12, California.

### New Members

We extend a hearty welcome to the following new members: Mrs. Lucille P. Arnold, Mrs. A. R. Brown, Mrs. Katie Goldberger, Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Sterne, and Mrs. Alva Terwilliger.

### Sora and Virginia Rails at Benicia

During the twenty-nine years that I have lived at Benicia, Solano County, adjacent to the Carquinez Straits and the Suisun Marshes, rails have come to my attention only infrequently though I suspect that they are considerably more common in the marshes about the San Francisco Bay region than one realizes. It was therefore a pleasant surprise to observe 2 sora and 2 Virginia rails during the forenoon of December 28, 1946. They were feeding on refuse from the ferry boat "Encinal", which has been anchored at Benicia for some three years and now serves as a "Fish Grotto". The rails at times ventured out from the tules for a distance of only a yard or so to feed. They stayed very close to the shelter of the heavy tule growth and glided about rapidly.

My notes on rails show that owls have the ability to locate rails. The fresh hind quarters of a sora rail I found on the top of a pile of mouse skulls at a barn owl's nest in the tower of a storehouse at Benicia Arsenal on March 19, 1919. Also I found the hind quarters of a sora in the nesting hole of a burrowing owl which I excavated at Benicia on May 4, 1935.

Emerson A. Stoner, Benicia, Calif.

## April Field Trip

On Sunday, April 13, Mr. Charles A. Bryant will lead the field trip to McCoy Ranch back of Livermore. Party meets at Livermore Greyhound Bus Station at 9:45 a.m. At flagpole on First Street turn south in town onto Livermore Avenue, then drive out and follow the Arroyo Mocho road southeast for about four miles. McCoy Ranch is on the right after passing the school house and sycamore grove. Those unable to go by auto should take the 7:45 a.m. Greyhound Bus from S. F. (Oakland, 8:20 a.m.) arriving at 9:40 a.m. Round trip fare, \$1.27. Private cars pick up passengers at 8:10 a.m. at 22nd and Broadway, Oakland. Bring luncheon and binoculars.



## April Meeting

The 355th meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be held on Thursday, April 10, 1947 at 8:00 p.m. at the Oakland Public Museum, 1426 Oak Street, Oakland, California. Mr. Charles G. Sibley will speak on "Bird Behavior". Mr. Sibley will discuss the history and some of the recent theories regarding the factors causing and controlling bird migration. Those so desiring may meet at Zerikotes Restaurant on Lake Merritt at 6:00 p.m. for dinner. The museum will be open at 7:30 p.m.

## May Field Trips

The regular field trip will be taken on Sunday, May 11, probably to Saint Mary's, Contra Costa County, Calif.

The trip to Monterey will be taken on Sunday, May 18. The party will meet at Hopkins Marine Museum in Pacific Grove at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Herman V. Leffler is in charge of arrangements for the trip. Anyone who is able to provide transportation or anyone needing transportation please contact Mr. Leffler (OLympic 0270).

## Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

### For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....	Dr. T. Eric Reynolds.....	140 Estates Drive, Piedmont 11
Corresponding Secretary.....	Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....	519 California St., San Francisco 4
Treasurer.....	Miss Ivander MacIver.....	2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4
Editor.....	Miss Grace Irene Crowe.....	1420 Henry St., Berkeley 7

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 8:00 p. m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., San Francisco  
Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year

Life memberships, \$50.00

Subscription, \$1.00 per year